Part of the

Famous Speech

OF

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Decemb. 48. Touching K. *Charles* I.

THe next thing proposed by them for a speedy Peace and Settlement, is the bringing of the King to speedy Justice for all his Treasons and Blood-shed in the late Wars, and to Depose and Execute him as the greatest capital Malefactor in the Kingdom:

This certainly is a very dangerous and unlikely way to Peace and Settlement. First of all, *The smiting of the Shepherd, is the way to scatter, not unite the Sheep.* The slaying of the King or General in the Field, *Scatters and Dissolves the Army, not secures them*: To cut off a King'd-head, is the next way to destroy, not cure a diseas'd Body: Such kind of State Policy may destroy, or disturb, but never Settle us in perfect Peace: The Prince his next Heir, the Queen, the Duke of *York*, all his Children, and Allies both at Home and Abroad, will certainly meditate Revenge, and all Kings in Christendom will assist them, even for their own Interest and Safety, least it should become a President for themselves. And will this then secure, or be a likely way to Peace or Settlement.

2. The greatest part of the Members in both Houses, the Lords, Gentlemen, and all sorts of People throughout the Kingdom, the whole Kingdoms of *Scotland* and *Ireland*, (who have as great an Interest in the Kings Person, being their Lawful King, as we have, and are obliged by Allegiance and Covenant to protect his Person and Crown from violence) will unanimously, as one man oppose and protest against it, and by force of Arms, endeavour to bring those to Execution who shall presume to advise, or attempt to depose or destroy the King in any kind, contrary to their Allegiance and solemn Covenant: Yea, all Protestant Realms, Churches, States in Foreign parts, will abhor both the fact, and adjudge it contrary to their Principles and Religion, and that which may irritate Popish Kings, and Princes to take up Arms

to ruine them, leſt they ſhould fall into the like practiſes. And can this then be a ſafe or ſpeedy way to Peace and Settlement, eſpecially when we know not what Government ſhall ſucceed upon it, and can expect nothing but bloody conſequences from ſuch a bloody advice.

3*dly*. I never read of any Peace or Settlement in any Kingdom, where *King-killing* was practiſed or approved. When the *Roman Armies* began once to Kill their Emperors, and cut off their Heads, *They were ſcarce ever free from Civil-wars. One Army ſet up one Emperor, another Army another, the Senate a third, who always* Warred *till they had cut off one anothers Heads. Moſt of thoſe Emperors had very ſhort reigns, few of them above a year or two, and ſome of them ſcarce two Months, but moſt of them untimely Deaths.* In *Sclavonia* and *Norway* where they had a Law, *that he that ſlew a Tyrant King, ſhould ſucceed him in the Throne*: They had almoſt every *year a new King, perpetual wars and diſcords, and not one of all their Kings for above one hundred years together, ever came to a natural Death,* but was murthered as a Tyrant, and ſucceeded by a worſe and greater Tyrant, as *Saxogramaticus and Nubrigenſis* teſtify.

And in the ſacred Story it ſelf, it is very obſervable, *That after ten Tribes revolted from* Rehoboam, *though by Gods Juſtice and approbation for* Solomons *ſins*; *they had never any Peace or Settlement, but perpetual Wars with one Kingdom or another, or between themſelves: Their Kings, or moſt of them were all Tyrants and Idolators, and by the juſt Hand of God, for the moſt part tumultuouſly ſlain and murthered one of and by another, who ſucceeded them: He that murthered his Predeceſſor, being uſually ſlain by his Succeſſor, or his Predeceſſors Sons, Servants, or by the People of the Land, in a tumultuous way*: In the 2 *Kings* 15. We *read in that one Chapter, of no leſs then four of thoſe Kings ſlain, one by another*: and as for the *People under theſe Kings, they had never any reſt, peace, ſettlement, or freedom, but lived under the greateſt miſery and oppreſſion that ever any* Subjects under Heaven did, as the ſacred Hiſtory records. This King-killing certainly can be then no probable way at all to Peace, Safety, Settlement, or Freedom, but the Policy to deprive us eternally of all theſe, and of God, and Religion to boot; as it did the ten *Tribes* heretofore.

4*thly*. This way to Peace and Settlement, is directly contrary to all the former Ingagements, Oathes, and ſeveral Petitions, Declarations, Remonſtrances, Proteſtations, and Profeſſions of both Houſes of Parliament: To the King, Kingdom, People, wherein we have alwayes proteſted and held forth unto them both before and ſince the Wars. *That we will preſerve and protect the Kings Perſon from danger, ſupport his royal Eſtate with Honour and Plenty at Home, with Power and reputation Abroad, and by our Loyal Affections, Actions and Advice, lay a ſure and laſting foundation of the Greatneſs and Proſperity of his Majeſty, and his royal Poſterity in future times. That we are ſtill reſolved to keep our ſelves with-*

within the bounds of Faithfulneſs and Allegiance to his ſacred Perſon and Crown. That we will with our Lives, Fortunes, Eſtates, and with the laſt drop of our Blood endeavour to ſupport His Majeſty, and his juſt Soveraignty and Power over Us; and to prevent all dangers to his Majeſties Perſon.

That we took up Arms as well for a Defence of His Majeſty to Protect his Perſon, as the Kingdom and Parliament; without any intent to hurt or injure His Majeſties Perſon or Power: Profeſſing in the preſence of Almighty God, That we would receive him with all Honour, yeild Him all due Obedience and Subjection, and Faithfully endeavour to ſecure His Perſon and Eſtate from all danger, and to the uttermoſt of our Power to procure and eſtabliſh to Him and His People, all the Bleſſings of a Glorious and Happy raign; which both Houſes ſeveral times profeſt and remonſtrated to the World. TO MURDER and DEPOSE THE KING, was *ſuch a ſcandal, as any that profeſs'd the name of a Chriſtian, could not have ſo little Charity as to raiſe it; eſpecially when they muſt needs know, the Proteſtation taken by every Member of both Houſes, whereby they Promiſe in the preſence of Almighty God, to defend His Majeſties Perſon; and all their Addreſſes and Petitions to Him expreſſing the contrary: That they never ſuffered it to enter into their Thoughts to Depoſe the* King, *abhorring the very Thought of it, much more the Intent.* That they never ſuffered the word DEPOSING the King, *To go out of their Mouthes, nor the thing to enter into their Thoughts. That they reſt aſſured, both God and Man will abominate that Monſtrous and moſt Injurious Charge laid upon the Repreſentative Body of this whole Kingdom by the Malignant Party, againſt the* King, as Deſigning *not only the ruine of his Majeſties Perſon, but of Monarchy it ſelf: The Authors of which malicious horrid ſcandal, they profeſs to make the Inſtances of their exemplary Juſtice, ſo ſoon as they ſhall be diſcovered.* Now for Us after all theſe multiplyed reiterated Proteſtations, Promiſes, Engagements, Declarations, Remonſtrances to all the World, from the beginning of the Differences and Wars till now, to think or talk of Depoſing and Deſtroying the King, and altering the Government, as the only ſafe and ſpeedy way to Peace and Settlement, as the *Army-Remonſtrants* preſcribe; would be ſuch a moſt deteſtable breach of publick Faith; ſuch a moſt Perfidious, Treacherous, Unrighteous wicked Act, as not only Gods, Angels, and good Men; but the very worſt of Turks and Devils would abhor: And therefore its a Miracle to me, that theſe *precious SAINTS* ſhould thus impudently, before all the World propoſe to the Houſe, and force you to purſue it, to ſtain your Reputation, and make you execrable to God and Men.

5*thly*. The very Oath of *Allegiance*, which every one of us hath taken, upon our firſt admiſsion to be Members, engageth us in poſitive terms, *Not to offer any hurt or violence to His Majeſties Royal Perſon,*

State or Government; *to bear Faith and true Allegiance to His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors*; *and Him and Them to defend to the uttermost of Our power, against all Conspiracies and Attempts whatsoever, which shall be made against His or Their Persons, Crown, or Dignity*: *And from our hearts to abhor, detest, and abjure as Impious and Heretical*, this Heathnish and Turkish Doctrine: *That Princes Excommunicated, or deprived by the People*, (as it seems *the King is now* for extirpating Episcopacy, Popery, Mass, and Prelacy out of his Dominions by his present Concessions, without any possibility or hopes of replanting) may *be Deposed or Murthered by their Subjects, or any other whatsoever.* Which Hellish contrivance and practice, as our whole *State and Parliament*, in the State of 3 *Jac. cap.* 1, 4, 5. 35 *Eliz. cap.* 1. and other Acts resolve, is the only way to unsettle, ruine and subvert, not to settle and establish the Peace and Government of our Realm. And both Houses since this Parliament, have by a *solemn Protestation*, first, and by a *solemn League and Covenant* since, with *Hands lifted up to the most high God*, engaged both themselves and the three Kingdoms of *England, Scotland* and *Ireland*, by a most sacred and serious Vow and Protestation (purposely made and prescribed by them, *For the Honour and Happiness of the King and His Posterity, and the true publick Liberty, Safety and Peace of the three Kingdoms*, as the Title and Preface declare) *Sincerely, Really, and Constantly to endeavour with their Estates and Lives*, TO PRESERVE AND DEFEND THE KINGS MAJESTIES PERSON AND AUTHORITY, *in the preservation and defence of the true Religion and Liberties of the Kingdom*, (which he hath now fully and actually performed by his Concessions in this Treaty) *That the World may bear witness with our Consciences* OF OUR LOYALTY; and that WE HAVE NO THOUGHTS OR INTENTIONS TO DIMINISH HIS MAJESTIES JUST POWER AND GREATNESS. *And shall also with all Faithfulness endeavour the discovery of all such as shall be Incendiaries, or evil Instruments, by* DIVIDING THE KING FROM HIS PEOPLE; That *they may be brought to speedy Tryal, and receive condign Punishment. And shall not suffer themselves directly, or indirectly, by whatsoever combination or terror, to be withdrawn or make defection from this Covenant*; *but shall all the days of their Lives really and constantly continue therein against all Opposition, and promote the same against all lets impediments whatsoever. And* this Covenant *we all made in the presence of Almighty God, the searcher of all Hearts*; WITH A REAL INTENTION TO PERFORM THE SAME, *as we shall answer at that great day, when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed.*

Now

Now how we who are *Members of this Houſe*, or any who are Subjects of our Three Kingdoms, or Officers and Souldiers in the Army, who have taken this *Oath of Allegiance*, *Proteſtation*, *League or Covenant*, or any of them, (as ſome of them have done, all or two of them at leaſt, ſundry times over) can, without the higheſt Perjury to God, Treachery to the King, Perfidiouſneſs to the Kingdom, Infamy to the World, Scandal to the Proteſtant Religion, and Eternal diſhonour to the Parliament and Themſelves, Athieſtically break through or elude all thoſe moſt *Sacred and Religious tyes upon our Souls*, *by a ſpeedy publick Dethroning and Decolling of the King*, *and Diſ-inheriting His Poſterity*; (as the Army Remonſtants adviſe) and that in the open view of the World, and that *All-ſeeing God* to whom we have thus Appealed and Sworn, by any *Equivocations* or *Diſtinctions*, (of which the *Armies Remonſtrance* is full) or Profeſſions of our damnable Hypocriſie in the breaking of them, tranſcends my underſtanding. And for thoſe who Style themſelves SAINTS, and charge this as one of the *Higheſt Crimes againſt the King*, His *frequent breach of Oaths and Promiſes*, to tranſcend him and *Traytors* in this very ſin, is ſuch a Monſter of Impiety, as I conceive could never have entred into the hearts of *Infidels*, or the worſt of Men or Devils. And to act this under a pretext to Preſerve and Settle the Peace of the Kingdom, is ſuch a Soleciſm, as militates point-blank againſt the very words and ſcope both of this Oath, Proteſtation, League, and Covenant, *which croſſeth not the Oaths of Supremacy and Allegiance*, *but more ſtrongly engageth Men to preſerve and defend the Kings Perſon and Autohority*, *in the Preſervation and Defence of the true Religion and Liberties of the Kingdom*; as the *Aſſembly* of Divines, and both Houſes affirm in their *Exhortation to take the Covenant*, which preſcribes this as the only means of ſecuring and preſerving Peace in all the Three Kingdoms; to preſerve the *Perſon and Honour of the King*, His Crown and Dignity, from any ſuch Violence and Invaſion as is now ſuggeſted by the Army, which all three of them ingage us, and all Three Kingdoms, with our Lives and Fortunes really and conſtantly to oppoſe, againſt all Lets and Impediments, *&c.* and to bring thoſe to condign puniſhment as Incendiaries and evil Inſtruments who ſuggeſt it. So as if the Army will proceed in this Diabolical deſtructive way, of Treaſon and Ruine, We, and all Three Kingdoms are ſolemnly engaged with our Eſtates and Lives unanimouſly to oppoſe and bring them to Juſtice. And is this then the way to publick Peace and Settlement, to raiſe another new War to murder one another in this new Quarrel, wherein the Army and their adherents, muſt be the ſole Malignants and Enemies we muſt Fight with, *&c?* No verily, but the high-way to the Kingdoms and Armies ruine, whoſe Commiſsions we are obliged to revoke; whoſe Contributions we muſt

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in Conſcience withdraw; and whoſe Power we muſt with our own lives reſiſt, unleſs we will be Perjured, and guilty of breach of *Covenant* in the higheſt degree, if they perſiſt in theſe *Anti-Covenant* Demands.

7. The King having granting us whatever we have, or can demand for the ſafety and preſervation of our Religion, Laws and Liberties; and both Houſes engaged themſelves by Vote in anſwer to the Kings Propoſitions, *to reſtore him to a condition of Freedom, Honour, and Safety, according to the Laws of the Realm*, (which was the Armies own Propoſals in his behalf in *Auguſt* 1647.) We can neither in Honeſty, Honour, Juſtice nor Conſcience (were He ten thouſand times worſe than the Army would render Him) Depoſe and bring Him to Execution. It being againſt all the rules of Juſtice, and Honour between two profeſſed Enemies, who had no relations one to another; much more between King and Subjects in a Civil War, a thing without Preſident in any Ages. To this the *Army Remonſtrance* anſwers, That *this would be thought an unreaſonable and unbeſeeming demand in a Perſonal Treaty, between Perſons ſtanding both free, and in equal ballance of Power; but not when one Party is wholly ſubdued, captivated, impriſoned, and in the others Power.* But this certainly is a difference ſpun with an *Athieſtical* thred; For to Treat with any King in our Power, or out of it, on Articles of Peace, upon theſe terms; That if He conſent to them, We will reſtore Him to the Throne with Honour, Freedom, Safety; and when He hath yielded us our Demands, then to Depoſe and cut of His Head; is the higheſt breach of Faith, Truth, Honour, and Juſtice, that can be imagined: and thoſe who dare juſtifie ſuch Perfidious and Unchriſtian dealing, deſerve rather the Style of *Turks* and *Athieſts*, than *Pious Saints.*

8. There is no preſident in Scripture, that the General Aſſembly, or Sanhedrin of the *Jews* or *Iſraelites*, did ever Judically Impriſon, Depoſe, or Execute any one of the Kings of *Judah* or *Iſrael*, tho' many of them were the groſſeſt Idolaters, and wickedſt Princes under Heaven; who ſhed much innocent blood, and oppreſſed the People ſundry ways. We know that *David* himſelf committed *Adultery* with *Uriah* his Wife, a faithful Servant and Souldier, while he was with his General *Joab* in the Field: And then afterwards cauſed him to be Treacherouſly ſlain. Yet neither the Aſſembly the Elders, nor *Joab* and the *Army* under him, did impeach or crave Jnſtice againſt him for theſe ſins, tho' he lived impenitently in them. And when he numbered the People afterwards, for which ſin ſeventy thouſand of his Subjects loſt their lives; yet was he not *Arraigned* nor *Depoſed* for it: and God who is Sovereignly juſt, tho' *David* was the principal Malefactor in this caſe, if not the ſole; and thereupon, *when he ſaw the Angel that*

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ſmote the People, cried out, *Lo, I have ſinned and done wickedly; but theſe Sheep, what have they done? Let thy hand be againſt me and my Fathers Houſe*: Yet God ſpared him and his Houſhold, tho' the Principals, and puniſhed the People only with death, for this ſin of his. After him *Solomon* his Son, a Man Eminent for Wiſdom and Piety at firſt, *Apoſtatiz'd* to moſt groſs *Idolatry* of all ſorts, to pleaſe his *Idolatrous* Wives, and became a great oppreſſor of his People, making their burdens very heavy, yet the Subjects or Souldiers did neither Impeach nor Depoſe him for it: and tho' he were the principal Offendor, yet God ſpared him for *Davids* ſake, in not taking the ten Tribes from him for theſe ſins, during his life; though he rent them from his Son *Rehoboam*, who was at moſt but acceſſary, for his Fathers ſins, not his. True it is, ſome of the *Idolatrous Kings* of *Iſrael*, by the juſt avenging Hand of God, were ſlain by private Conſpiracies, and popular Tumults, in an Illegal way: but not Depoſed nor Arraigned by their Sanhedrins, or General Congregations; and thoſe who ſlew them, *were ſometimes* ſlain by others *who aſpired to the Crown, or by the People of the Land, or by their Children who Succeeded them*; and came to untimely Tragical ends.

9. Tho there be ſome preſidents of *Popiſh* States and Parliaments Depoſing their Popiſh Kings and Emperours at home, and in Foreign parts, in an extraordinary way, by power of an armed Party: Yet there is no preſident of any one *Proteſtant* Kingdom or State, that did ever yet Judically Depoſe or bring to Execution, any of their Kings and Princes, though never ſo bad, whether *Proteſtants* or *Papiſts*; and the *Proteſtants* in *France*, though ſome of their Kings, when they had inveſted them in their Thrones, became *Apoſtates* to *Popery*, and Perſecutors of Their People; albeit they reſiſted them by force of arms in the Field to preſerve their lives; did never once attempt to pull Them from Their Thrones, or bring Their Perſons unto Juſtice: And I hope our *Proteſtant Parliament* will never make the firſt preſident in this kind, nor ſtain Their Honour or Religion with the blood of a *Proteſtant* King, againſt ſo many *Oaths*, *Proteſtations*, *Covenants*, *Declarations*, and *Remonſtrances* made and publiſhed by Them to the contrary.

10. For the preſidents of *Eeward* II. and *Richard* II. in times of *Popery*, they were rather forcible reſignations by Power of an *Army*, then judical deprivations, neither of them being ever legally arraigned and brought to Tryal in *Parliament*. And *Mortimer* who had the chief hand in Depoſing King *Edward* II. in the *Parliament* of 1 *E.* 3. was in the *Parliament* of 4 *E.* 3. Impeached, Condemned, and Executed as a *Traytor*, and guilty of *High Treaſon*, for Murdering *Edw.* II. after he was Depoſed, at *Berkley-Caſtle*, and Sir *Simon Bereford*, (together with *Thomas Gurney* and *Will. Ocle*) were adjudged *Traytors* for aſſiſting him therein; one of them Executed, and great Rewards promiſed

miſed to the apprehenders of the other two. And as for *Richard* II. though he was Depoſed after *Henry* IV. was Crowned by pretence in *Parliament*: yet this Depoſition was after his reſignation only, not before it: and without any Formal *tryal* or *arraignment*, or any Capital *Judgment* of Death againſt him; for which I find no preſident in any *Parliament* of *England*, *Scotland*, *France*, nor yet in *Denmark* it ſelf, though an Elective Kingdom; who, though They juſtly Depoſed *Chriſtiern* II. for his moſt abominable *Tyranies* and *Cruelties*; yet they never adjudged or put him to Death, but only reſtrained him as a Priſoner. I ſhall only add this, That though the Elective Kindoms of *Hungary*, *Bohemia*, *Poland*, *Denmark*, and *Sweden*, have in their *Parliaments* and *Diets* Depoſed ſundry of their Kings for their Wickednesſes and Tyrany; yet they never judically *condemned any one of them to death*, though *Papiſts*. And for a *Proteſtant Parliament* (to pleaſe an army only, acted by *Traytors* in this particular; to render both *Parliament*, *army*, and our Religion too, for ever execrable throughout the World, and ſet all Mens Pens and Hands againſt them to their ruine, to begin ſuch a bloody preſident as this, upon a moſt falſe pretext, of ſettling Peace; contrary to the expreſs Command of God himſelf, who Commands Chriſtians, *To Pray for Kings, and all in authority, that they may live a quiet and peaceable life under them in all Godlineſs and Honeſty*, (not to Depoſe or cut off their Heads) as the only way to Peace and Settlement; will not only be Scandalous but Monſtrous.

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